

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6094 of February 12, 1990

Vocational-Technical Education Week, 1990

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout the history of the United States, the American people have always had the highest regard for practical invention and design. Today we still value the skillful use of tools and technology, as well as the application of innovative ideas. Both are vital to the success of business and industry, and both are vital to a strong economy.

This week, we recognize the importance of vocational and technical education in our Nation's public and private schools. If the United States is to remain a leader in the increasingly competitive global marketplace, it must not only be committed to excellence in the production of goods and services, but also be capable of achieving it. By preparing young men and women for work in highly specialized technical fields, vocational-technical education programs make an important contribution to our Nation's strength and productivity.

The students and teachers engaged in vocational-technical education know that it holds great rewards for individuals, as well as for the Nation. Through vocational-technical education, aspiring entrepreneurs gain the knowledge and skills they need to establish and maintain their own businesses. Many other students pursue exciting careers in health care, electronics, engineering, and other challenging fields.

Graduates of vocational-technical education programs can take great pride in knowing that they possess the kind of learning and expertise relied upon by millions of people every day. In short, vocational-technical education works—and it works for all of us.

In acknowledgment of the great value of vocational and technical education, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 130, has designated the week of February 11 through February 17, 1990, as "Vocational-Technical Education Week" and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of February 11 through February 17, 1990, as Vocational-Technical Education Week. I invite all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities designed to highlight the benefits of quality vocational-technical education.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and

of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6095 of February 13, 1990

American Heart Month, 1990

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Approximately every 32 seconds, someone in the United States dies of some form of heart and blood vessel disease. Heart attack, stroke, and other cardiovascular disease kills nearly one million Americans every year. In fact, cardiovascular diseases cause almost as many deaths annually as cancer, accidents, pneumonia, influenza, and all other causes of death combined.

Nearly 67 million Americans currently suffer from one or more forms of cardiovascular disease, including high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, rheumatic heart disease, and stroke. While many people mistakenly assume that heart disease occurs primarily in old age, studies show that 5 percent of all heart attacks occur in people under age 40, and more than 45 percent occur in people before age 65.

Women as well as men are at risk. Heart attack is the number one killer of American women, surpassing even breast cancer and lung cancer. Approximately 244,000 of the more than 512,000 people who die each year of heart attack—nearly half—are women. In all, heart attack and other forms of heart and blood vessel disease claim the lives of nearly half a million women each year.

Cardiovascular diseases exact an incalculable toll in human pain and suffering. They also inflict a heavy cost on our Nation in terms of health care expenses and lost productivity. The annual costs of cardiovascular-related physician and nursing services, hospital and nursing home services, medications, and lost work due to disability total in the billions of dollars.

Fortunately, the outlook is not all gloomy. The latest reports show that age-adjusted death rates for cardiovascular diseases declined slightly more than 24 percent between 1977 and 1988. Advances in both the treatment and the prevention of heart and blood vessel diseases account for much of this progress.

Since 1948, the Federal Government, through the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and the American Heart Association, a private not-for-profit organization, have spent millions of dollars on educational programs and research into cardiovascular diseases. The American Heart Association estimates that it has invested more than \$823 million on research since it became a national voluntary health organization in the late 1940s. That great investment has been made possible by the generosity of the American public and the dedicated efforts of the Association's 2.7 million volunteers.